

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

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TOPIC General Military InformationEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 26 March 1953REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS 25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 13 March 1953, troop trains passing the Rathenow railroad station included: a train carrying 5 x 122-mm howitzers, coming from the direction of Stendal and proceeding toward Doeberitz between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.; and a train carrying 12 tanks, 6 to 8 tanks, 2 to 3 jeeps and 6 to 7 boxcarloads of troops, coming from the direction of Doeberitz and proceeding toward Stendal, at about 4 p.m. ¹

2. On 9 March, the Loewen Kaserne, south of Highway No 103 and east of the Elstal airfield, Doeberitz, was heavily occupied by Unit No 1 of about 1,570 men and Unit No 2 of about 1,200 men. On 9 March, a general spoke to the two units which, with three flags, had fallen in in the barracks area. Subsequently, 30 T-34 tanks, 18 trucks towing 76-mm AT guns, 13 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns and 4 trucks towing 120-mm mortars; and belonging to Unit No 1; and 35 JS-2 and JS-3 tanks, and 8 JSU-120 guns, belonging to Unit No 2, left for the training area for gun salute firing. On 11 March, an undetermined number of soldiers was seen cleaning two 122-mm field howitzers in front of a gun shed in the Adler Kaserne, which adjoins the Loewen Kaserne to the west. ²

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3. On 5 March, a truck column, entered the Nachrichten Kaserne, east of Turmschanzen Strasse and south of Jerichower Strasse, Magdeburg. Between 4:15 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. on 10 March, 37 prime movers, about 30 x 100-mm AT guns, 29 trucks and 2 sedans; and, at 5 a.m., 14 prime movers towing howitzers were 122-mm howitzers, left the installation toward the east.

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1. Comment. The shipment to the east cannot be accounted for. The tanks on the train toward the west presumably belonged to the 10th Gds Tank Div as, according to other reports, two shipments of units of the division went from Satzborn to Wolmirstedt on 13 March.

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2. Comment. The information confirms in early March, according to which Unit No 1 is the 19th Mecz Regt of the 1st Mecz Div and Unit No 2 is the 72d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the

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division. [redacted]. This would indicate that the 219th Tank Regt of the division is stationed in Altes and/or Neues Lager. However, it is doubted that the unidentified unit of the division stationed in the Adler Kaserne is equipped with 122-mm field howitzers, as the 283d (?) Gds How Arty Regt is the only unit of the division which is equipped with this type of gun.

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[redacted] The gun salute on 9 March was executed on occasion of Stalin's funeral.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The units observed on 5 March probably belonged to the 63d Gds Mecz Regt of the 19th Gds Mecz Div and returned from exercises. [redacted] elements of the division headquarters returned to the Herrenkrug and Anger Kaserne. [redacted] Major artillery units have not been observed in the Nachrichten Kaserne. The units observed on 10 March, therefore, are believed to have been stationed in the installation only temporarily.

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